

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: KS PFOR KN UN CH

SUBJ: KOREA IN 28TH GA: CHINESE PROBLEM

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING AMPLIFIES REFTEL SUMMARY REPORT OF STAFF-LEVEL CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE LATE AFTERNOON NOV 11. TOPICS INCLUDED MODALITIES FOR SEEKING POSTPONEMENT OF DEBATE; DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT TO CO-SPONSORS AND PROBLEM OF LEAKS; TIMING OF COMITE CHAIRMAN'S READING OF CONSENSUS TEXT. END SUMMARY.

2. NOT HAVING HEARD FROM CHOU MORNING NOV 11, MISOFF SOUGHT HIM OUT IN UN DELEGATES LOUNGE MID-AFTERNOON. CHOU SAID DPRK SIDE STILL NOT CERTAIN TO BE PREPARED FOR CO-SPONSORS MEETING NEXT DAY BUT THIS WAS STILL POSSIBILITY. HE ASKED STATUS OF OUR PLANNING. MISOFF SAID HE HAD MET WITH OUR KEY CO-SPONSORS AT STAFF LEVEL AND WE PREPARED MOVE WHENEVER CHINESE AND DPRK ARE. HE ADDED THAT OUR SIDE FULLY DETERMINED TO ACT IN PHASE WITH OPPOSITION CO-SPONSORS. AT OUR MEETING EARLIER IN DAY, MISOFF ADDED, MAJOR POINT OF CONCERN WAS THAT BOTH SIDES, IF WE ARE TO SEEK DELAY IN OPENING OF KOREA DEBATE, MUST REQUEST FIRST COMITE CHAIRMAN SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE. MISOFF SAID THAT CHAIRMAN HAD EARLIER IN DAY ANNOUNCED KOREA DEBATE WOULD OPEN NOV 14. WE MUST JOINTLY
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BE PREPARED TO APPROACH CHAIRMAN SOON, MISOFF SAID.

3. LATE IN AFTERNOON, MISOFF REQUESTED CHOU MEET IN MORE PRIVATE AREA OF UN TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION. CHOU READILY

AGREED. MISOFF OPENED BY RESUMING DISCUSSION OF TIMING PROBLEM. WHATEVER PROBLEMS MAY BE ON CHINESE SIDE, WE WERE FACED WITH URGENT NEED TO CONCERT ON APPROACH TO COMITE CHAIRMAN. MISOFF TOLD CHOU THAT OUR KEY CO-SPONSORS, AND ROK, WOULD AGREE TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF DEBATE. BUT TIME WAS SHORT AND IF SUCH REQUEST WERE TO BE MADE EACH SIDE MUST COORDINATE PREPARATION TO DO SO IN MANNER THAT WOULD MEET SENSITIVITIES ON DPRK SIDE. CHOU REPORTED THEY HAD NOT GOTTEN THAT FAR IN PLANNING, AND ASKED LATEST TIME MISOFF FELT CHAIRMAN COULD BE APPROACHED. MISOFF SAID LATEST PREFERABLE WOULD BE AFTERNOON NOV 13 BEFORE FINAL DISARMAMENT DEBATE SESSION FINISHED, BUT APPROACH CONCEIVABLY COULD BE MADE JUST BEFORE KOREA DEBATE OPENS NOV 14. IN SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE, CHOU CONSIDERED MISOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT DPRK, AS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER ON OPENING DAY, ASK FOR POSTPONEMENT FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE; CHAIRMAN THEN COULD CONFIRM NO ROK OBJECTION OR OBJECTION FROM PRINCIPAL CO-SPONSORS. JOINT APPROACH BY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF TWO SIDES ALSO CONSIDERED. CHOU SEEMED IMPRESSED BY NEED TO DECIDE QUICKLY ON MODALITIES AND SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONSULT WITH HUANG.

4. MISOFF THEN TURNED TO ANOTHER QUESTION THAT EARLIER CONSULTATIONS ON OUR SIDE HAD PRODUCED. IF EACH SIDE IS TO CONVENE FULL CO-SPONSORS MEETING AFTERNOON NOV 13 (HYPOTHE- SIZING THAT DPRK SIDE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO DO SO), AND CO-SPONSORS ARE INFORMED OF TEXT, THEN TEXT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BECOME PUBLIC. CHOU PROTESTED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE SO. DPRK WOULD KEEP ITS CO-SPONSORS IN LINE AND ROK MUST ALSO. MISOFF, CONFIRMING THAT WE INTENDED TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH CHINESE THROUGHOUT, DREW TO CHOU'S ATTENTION THAT WHEN TOTAL 61 CO-SPONSORS IN NEW YORK HAVE TEXT, PRESS WOULD HAVE IT SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THIS WAS FACT OF LIFE. CHOU AT FIRST INSISTED THAT NOT NECESSARILY SO BUT FINALLY ACCEPTED MISOFF'S POINT THAT RISK WAS THERE; MISOFF SAID OUR GROUP PREPARED TO TAKE RISK, BUT ONLY IF WE AND CHINESE FULLY SHARED RECOGNITION OF RISK. IN COURSE OF THIS, CHOU SAID: "I PERSONALLY FEEL STRONGLY THAT SUCH
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A LEAK MIGHT ENDANGER THE AGREEMENT." MISOFF REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT WISH QUESTION SUCH JUDGMENT BY CHOU BUT DESIRED ONLY TO HAVE COMPLETE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING REGARDING IMPLI- CATIONS OF ANY AGREED ACTION AT EACH PHASE. CHOU REPLIED THAT DPRK WOULD INSIST THAT NO ONE ACT INDISCREETLY. MISOFF POINTED OUT THAT WITH SO MANY CO-SPONSORS ON DPRK SIDE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO ASSUME THAT ALL WOULD ADHERE TO DPRK REQUEST, FOR OUR PART, MISOFF SAID, OUR EXPERIENCE REQUIRES US TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE COULD NOT REPEAT NOT GUARANTEE THAT IF TEXT DISTRIBUTED AT CO-SPONSORS MEETING IT WOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. MISOFF REITERATED BELIEF THAT DELEGATIONS ON DPRK SIDE WOULD POSE SAME PROBLEM.

5. CHOU RUMINATED ON THIS AND SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES: DPRK (AND ROK) COULD PASS OUT TEXTS, RISKING LEAK; COULD READ OUT TEXT, OR COULD SUMMARIZE TYPE OF CONSENSUS THAT MIGHT BE ACCEPTED, WITHOUT PROVIDING TEXT. ON LAST POSSIBILITY, MISOFF SAID ROK FELT STRONG OBLIGATION TO CO-SPONSORS AND WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSULTED ON ANY SUCH PROCEDURE; SO WOULD KEY CO-SPONSORS. WE AGREED, HOWEVER, THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED UPON BEFORE CO-SPONSORS MEETING AND IN MEANWHILE CHOU WOULD CONSULT FURTHER ON HIS SIDE.

6. MISOFF THEN RAISED QUESTION OF WHEN FIRST COMITE CHAIRMAN WOULD READ CONSENSUS STATEMENT. HE NOTED THAT CHINESE PREFERRED TEXT TO BE READ AT END OF DEBATE. HE SAID ROK AND OUR KEY CO-SPONSORS PREFERRED READING AT OPENING OF DEBATE. CHOU SAID CHINESE HAD CLEARLY RECALLED THAT AT SCALI-HUANG NOV 9 MEETING SCALI HAD AGREED TO ACQUIESCE IN CHINESE PREFERENCE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AT END OF DEBATE. MISOFF REMINDED CHOU THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES BUT SAID OUR UNDERSTANDING AND OUR NOTES OF CONVERSATION INDICATED THAT MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY AND WAS ONE TO BE SETTLED LATER. CHOU AGAIN PRESSED THAT ALL ON CHINESE SIDE HAD UNDERSTOOD SCALI TO HAVE AGREED TO THIS AND, FURTHERMORE, HAD SO REPORTED TO NORTH KOREANS AND TO PEKING. MISOFF SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE GENUINE MISUNDERSTANDING AND THUS GENUINE ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED. IN ENSUING EXCHANGE, MISOFF MADE CLEAR THAT, RECOGNIZING THERE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN SUCH MISUNDERSTANDING, PROBLEM WAS NOW TO SORT OUT IN GOOD FAITH AND IN KEEPING WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE FINAL
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CONSENSUS. HE MUST CONSULT WITH ROK, AMBASSADOR SCALI AND WITH SOUTH KOREANS, WHO PREFERRED EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT. MISOFF AGREED TO CONTACT CHOU IN LATE EVENING OR NEXT MORNING TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

7. WE CONCLUDED MEETING BY CONFIRMING THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH BEFORE OUR MEETING MORNING NOV 13 WITH KEY ROK CO-SPONSORS, TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE PARALLEL PLANNING.
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